

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CHRISTOPHER GODSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. _____

ARA, INC.,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages brought in response to Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (hereinafter "FDCPA") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Jurisdiction of this court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692k(d), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and 28 U.S.C. § 1337.
3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) in that the Defendant transacts business here and the conduct complained of occurred here.

III. PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Christopher Godson, is a natural person residing in the County of Erie and State of New York and is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
5. Defendant, ARA, Inc., is a domestic business corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois and is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
6. Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.
7. The acts of the Defendant alleged hereinafter were performed by its employees acting within the scope of their actual or apparent authority.

8. All references to “Defendant” herein shall mean the Defendant or an employee of the Defendant.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. That Plaintiff incurred a debt to Citifinancial. This debt will be referred to as “the subject debt.”
10. That the subject debt arose out of a transaction in which money, services or property, which was the subject of the transaction, was primarily for personal, family and/or household purposes. As such, said debt is a “debt” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5).
11. That Plaintiff thereafter defaulted on the subject debt.
12. That upon information and belief Defendant was employed by Citifinancial to collect on the subject debt.
13. That in or about November of 2012, Defendant began calling Plaintiff in an attempt to collect on the subject debt. That in said messages Defendant fails to give the mini-Miranda warning that a debt collector was calling in an attempt to collect a debt and fails to identify Defendant’s name.
14. That Plaintiff mailed Defendant a cease and desist letter dated November 10, 2012, and which was received and signed for by Defendant on November 19, 2012.
15. That Defendant again contacted Plaintiff on November 29, 2012, after receipt of the cease and desist correspondence.
16. That as a result of Defendant’s acts Plaintiff became nervous, upset, anxious, and suffered from emotional distress.

V. CAUSE OF ACTION

17. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16 above.
18. The conduct of Defendant as described in this complaint violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq.) as follows:
 - A. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §16929(c) by contacting the Plaintiff after receipt of cease and desist correspondence.
 - B. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1692d(6) by not identifying the company’s name when calling Plaintiff.

C. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1692e and 15 U.S.C. §1692e(11) by failing to give the mini-Miranda warning that a debt collector was calling in an attempt to collect a debt in the multiple messages left for Plaintiff.

19. That as a result of the Defendant's FDCPA violations as alleged herein, Plaintiff became nervous, upset, anxious and suffered from emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against the Defendant for:

- (a) Actual damages;
- (b) Statutory damages for pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- (c) Costs, disbursements and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- (d) For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

VI. JURY DEMAND

Please take notice that Plaintiff demands trial by jury in this action.

Dated: April 30, 2013

/s/ Seth J. Andrews
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